

# Conjunctions: and, but, or, because, so

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## Introduction



We have beef **and** pork today **but** no fish.

## Definition

**And, but, or, and so** are **conjunctions**.

## Construction

They join two parts of a sentence: `<?xml:namespace prefix = "o" ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />`

I have two sons	<b>and</b>	one daughter.
I like dogs	<b>but</b>	I don't like cats.
Do you prefer tea	<b>or</b>	coffee?
We're not going out today	<b>because</b>	it's raining.
It's raining	<b>so</b>	we're not going out today.

## Uses

We use them to add some extra information.

Conjunction	Use	Examples
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<b>and</b>	<b>To join two or more pieces of information - it suggests 'also'</b>	<b>I live in Paris <b>and</b> I work in a bank.</b> <b>We need bread, cheese <b>and</b> wine.</b>
<b>but</b>	<b>To join two contrasting ideas</b>	<b>I'm busy today <b>but</b> I'm free tomorrow.</b>
<b>or</b>	<b>To join two or more pieces of information in a negative sentence</b>  <b>To join two possibilities</b>	<b>I don't like wine <b>or</b> beer.</b> <b>We don't have any apples, oranges <b>or</b> bananas.</b> <b>We can finish this today <b>or</b> tomorrow.</b>
<b>because</b>	<b>To give a reason</b>	<b>I'm having lunch early today <b>because</b> I have a meeting this afternoon.</b>
<b>so</b>	<b>To add a consequence or a result</b>	<b>I have a meeting this afternoon <b>so</b> I'm having lunch early today.</b>

## Word order

The conjunctions **and**, **but**, **or**, **because** and **so** are usually placed in the middle of a sentence but can also be used to begin a sentence, especially in informal writing:

It's very quiet in the office at the moment **because** so many people are on holiday.  
**Because** so many people are on holiday, it's very quiet in the office at the moment.

With **and**, **but**, **or** and **so**, there is a sense of a pause before emphasising something:

We need to find new premises. **And** we need to employ two new managers!  
It's a serious problem. **But**, don't worry - I think I have a solution.  
We could invite everyone to the meeting. **Or** maybe we should limit it to team leaders.  
It's getting nearer to the deadline. **So**, let's work hard to get it finished.

## Examples



In Canada, they speak English **and** French.



"I'm not available on Wednesday, Thursday **or** Friday." "Well, I'm free on Monday **but** not Tuesday."



You can pay now **or** when you leave.



I'm not buying this **because** I don't like the colour.



It's sunny today **so** we're having a barbecue.

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<b>but</b>	To join two contrasting ideas	I'm busy today <b>but</b> I'm free tomorrow.
<b>or</b>	To join two or more pieces of information in a negative sentence  To join two possibilities	I don't like wine <b>or</b> beer.  We don't have any apples, oranges <b>or</b> bananas.  We can finish this today <b>or</b> tomorrow.
<b>because</b>	To give a reason	I'm having lunch early today <b>because</b> I have a meeting this afternoon.

**so****To add a consequence or a result****I have a meeting this afternoon  
so I'm having lunch early today.**

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